RESOLUTION NO. 29-1987

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKIE, OREGON, SUPPORTING THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OREGON EDUCATION FUND PROJECT TO SOLVE SCHOOL FINANCE PROBLEMS.

WHEREAS, education is a necessity in any society and to that end should be promoted by government and citizens, and

WHEREAS, funding for education should be equitable, adequate, and stable to ensure that all citizens have access to schooling in the basic years of grades one through twelve, and

WHEREAS, in Oregon, schools are funded by the state and by property taxes. The heavier burden of school finance is on the overburdened property taxpayer, and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has proposed several changes in school finance only to have the proposals defeated by the citizens, and

WHEREAS, the 1987 State Legislature passed the Safety Net legislation to keep schools open in Oregon as a temporary measure, and

WHEREAS, school levies are still being defeated, forcing the schools to stay open on inadequate funding, and

WHEREAS, the League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund is embarking on a project called SCHOOLS to bring citizens together seeking a common solution to the problem of school finance, and

WHEREAS, informed and active citizen participation in government is the purpose of the League of Women Voters,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of Milwaukie, Oregon, supports education as an investment in the future and as an enrichment of the individual, and therefore, endorses the project--SCHOOLS--planned by the League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund.

Introduced and adopted by the City Council of the City of Milwaukie Oregon, on the 20th day of October, 1987.

Roger A. Hall

Roger A. Hall, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jerri L. Widner, City Recorder

Approved as to form:

Greg Eades, City Attorney

SCHOOLS

League of Women Voters Education Fund

October 7, 1987

Mr. Roger Hall, Mayor
City Council of Milwaukie
10722 SE Main
Milwaukie, OR 97222

Dear Mr. Hall:

The Board of Trustees of the League of Women Voters of Oregon Education Fund asked us to tell you about an exciting and ambitious project the League is embarking on. The purpose of the project - SCHOOLS - is to bring a variety of interest groups and many individuals together to seek a common solution to the problem of school finance. We invite the City Council of Milwaukie to endorse this project by passing the enclosed resolution. Successful school finance reform in other states has resulted from a coalition of various interest groups through compromise and concession. That is the result we hope to achieve with this project.

Although many proposals for reform have been put forward in this state, they have been defeated time after time. None of them has had grass roots backing, or has resulted from wide citizen participation in seeking a solution to the problems that have plagued Oregon for two decades. We feel that a different approach is needed. There is general agreement that the Safety Net is only a temporary solution to provide time for a more permanent remedy. This seems the right time to involve a wide variety of interest groups with varying viewpoints in the process.

The project centers around two rounds of public meetings to be held in at least twenty communities throughout the state. Our first round will be held November 16, 7:15-9:30 p.m., at the Milwaukie Senior Center. Participants will be provided with background information on our current system and its problems. We will divide into small groups with trained facilitators to discuss the problems and identify areas of agreement on the goals of a viable school finance system. In the second round of meetings, to be held in Spring 1988, participants will examine a variety of alternatives, measure them against the goals that have been identified, and seek a consensus of the kind of solution that will work for Oregon.

In order to achieve the kind of wide participation we believe necessary, we are inviting many groups to join us. We hope very much that the City Council will pass this resolution and encourage attendance at the meeting. Your participation will add an important viewpoint.

We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Irene Marvich

Irene Marvich
MECCA LWV President
654-9030

Ruth Zilk

Ruth Zilk
Local League Coordinators
654-6043

Lynne Brown

Lynne Brown
653-0030